

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of one positive single lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an image side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40$$

... (7),

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

42. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, and

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

43. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said fourth lens group consists of one positive single lens alone,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an image side of the second lens group and satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40$$

$$\dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

45. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said second lens group consists of a negative single lens, a negative single lens, and a positive single lens,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an image side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40$$

... (7),

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

46. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an image side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \quad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

47. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises a positive single lens convex on an object side thereof and a doublet consisting of a positive lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative lens concave on an image side thereof,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an image side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \quad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

49. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said fourth lens group has a surface with a stronger curvature on an object side thereof than on an image side thereof,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an image side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40$$

... (7),

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

53. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein,

a negative lens is located nearest to an image side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \quad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens, and

a condition $0.5 < |F_2 / F_3| < 1.2$ is satisfied.

54. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein,
a negative lens is located nearest to an image side of the second lens group
that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \quad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens, and
a condition $0.49 < |L_3 / L_2| < 1$ is satisfied.

55. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side
of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an
object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle
end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during
zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive
lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens
and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein,

a negative lens is located nearest to an image side of the second lens group
that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \quad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens, and
a condition $2 < (F_{3,4w}) / IH < 3.3$ is satisfied.

56. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side
of said system:

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a first lens group having positive refracting power;
a second lens group having negative refracting power;
a third lens group having positive refracting power; and
a fourth lens group having positive refracting power,
wherein:

during zooming, a space between said first and second lens groups, a space
between said second and third lens groups and a space between said third and fourth
lens groups vary independently,

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said third lens group consists of, in order from an object side thereof, a
double-convex positive lens, and a doublet consisting of a positive meniscus lens
convex on an object side thereof and a negative meniscus lens, and said fourth lens
group consists of a double-convex lens having a large curvature on an object side
surface thereof, and

a negative lens is located nearest to the image side of the second lens group
and a condition $v_{21} < 40$ is satisfied, wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said
negative lens.

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Please enter new claims 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 as follows:

61. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

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a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a bi-convex positive lens, a bi-convex positive lens and a negative lens, and

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

62. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

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a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a bi-concave negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a bi-concave negative lens, and

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

63. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

the following condition (3) is satisfied:

$$2 < (F3 \cdot 4W) / IH < 3.3 \quad (3)$$

where $(F3 \cdot 4W)$ is a composite focal length of said third and fourth lens groups at the wide-angle end, and IH is a radius of an image circle.

64. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said second lens group comprises at least two single lenses,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

the following condition (4) is satisfied:

$$0.6 < |F2 / F3| < 1 \quad (4)$$

where F_i is a focal length of an i -th lens group.

65. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said second lens group comprises at least three lens components,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

the following condition (4) is satisfied:

$$0.6 < |F_2 / F_3| < 1 \quad (4)$$

where F_i is a focal length of an i -th lens group.

66. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens, and said third lens group consists of two lens components,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

the following condition (4) is satisfied:

$$0.6 < |F2 / F3| < 1 \quad (4)$$

where F_i is a focal length of an i -th lens group.

67. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

CM said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

the following condition (5) is satisfied:

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$$0.3 < |F3 / F4| < 0.8 \quad (5)$$

where F_i is a focal length of an i -th lens group.

68. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and
the following condition (6) is satisfied:

$$0.4 < |\beta_{2T}| < 1 \quad (6)$$

where β_{2T} is a lateral magnification of the second lens group at the telephoto end of said system.

69. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

at least one of the lenses in said third lens group has a concave surface on an image side thereof,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and
the following condition (6) is satisfied:

$$0.4 < |\beta_{2T}| < 1 \quad (6)$$